

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: A TURK VIEW ON GREENFIELD MISSION

1. FOLLOWING JANUARY 29 DISCUSSION RE GOT RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL AMENDING SINGLE CONVENTION (REPORTED SEPTTEL), DCM ASKED MFA DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS YUKSEL SOYLEMEE OW GREENFIELD MISSION'S SECOND VISIT TO TURKEY HAD GONE. SOYLEMEZ SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME BRIEF CONTRE-TEMPS WHILE MISSION WAS IN ANKARA BUT HE FELT THAT MATTERS HAD BEEN SMOOTHED OUT AND THAT BY END OF VISIT A FAIRLY HIGH DEGREE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A THIRD VISIT OF THE MISSION IN MARCH.

2. SOYLEMEZ EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE GREENFIELD MISSION HAD BEEN PERSUADED THAT THE PRICE TO BE PAID TO THE FARMER FOR UNINCISED POPPY STRAW WAS THE KEY ELEMENT IN THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOT DECISION TO ADOPT THE STRAW PROCESS. IF THE FARMER WERE HAIY, SAID SOYLEMEZ, THE TRANSITION TO THE STRAW PROCESS WOULD BE SMOOTH AND POPULAR IN TURKEY. HE THOUGHT THAT POPPY FARMERS SHOULD BE PAID THE SAME PRICE FOR POPPY STRAW AS TOBACCO FARMERS RECEIVED. HE NOTED THAT AEGEAN TOBACCO BROUGHT
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ABOUT 30 TL (\$2.17) PER KILO TO THE FARMER AND PREDICTED THAT THE NEXT CROP OF BLACK SEA TOBACCO WOULD PROBABLY BE PURCHASED AT ABOUT 50 TL (\$3.61) PER KILO.

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, DCM STRESSED NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF AN ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK AND CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG TNP, JANDARMA, AND TMO.

4. SOYLEMEZ'S RESPONDED THAT GOT FULLY CAPABLE OF ENFORCING

PROHIBITION OF POPPY INCISION. DECREE ORDERING CONVERSION TO STRAW PROCESS HAD REAL TEETH IN IT AND VIOLATORS WOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. HE NOTED ROT'S SUCCESS IN ENFORCING TOTAL BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION. "NOT A SINGLE HECTARE OF ILLICIT POPPIES WAS GROWN IN TURKEY," HE SAID. HE REVERTED TO ARGUMENT THAT KEY ELEMENT WAS AN ATTRACTIVE PRICE FOR POPPY STRAW TO BE PAID TO THE LICENSED FARMER.

5. COMMENT: (A) SOYLEMEZ'S EXPECTATIONS OF PRICE TO BE PAID TO FARMER FOR POPPY STRAW SEEM TO US UNREASONABLY HIGH. EXECUTIVES OF MALLINCKRODT WHO RECENTLY VISITED ANKARA TOLD US TMO HAD TALKED TO THEM OF A PRICE OF

\$1.60 PER KILO DELIVERED TO TURKISH SEAPORT. MALLINCKRODT HAD CLAIMED THIS PRICE WAS FAR ABOVE MARKET POSSIBILITIES. NEVERTHELESS, SOYLEMEZ DOUBTLESS REFLECTS ASPIRATIONS OF TMO AS TO PRICE WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE FULL COOPERATION OF POPPY FARMERS.

(B) SOYLEMEZ'S ASSERTIONS OF GOT'S ABILITY TO ENFORCE BAN ON INCISION ARE DOUBTLESS BASED TO A LARGE EXTENT ON NATIONAL PRIDE RATHER THAN A COOL APPRAISAL OF THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM. HE ATTITUDE DOES, HOWEVER, REFLECT THE SENSITIVITY ON THIS SUBJECT AND AWARENESS OF TURKEY'S PROMISE THAT RESUMED POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD NOT RESULT IN ILLICIT TRAFFICKING WHICH PREVAILS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOT. WE BELEIVE THAT RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS IN TNP AND JANDARMA WANT AND WILL WELCOME OUR HELP. WE MUST BE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO BE FLEXIBLE IN OUR TACTICS AND SHOULD AVOID ANYTHING THAT LOOKS AS THOURH AE WERE TRYING TO IMPOSE
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A DETAILED BLUEPRINT ON THEM.
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